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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. KRENKEL
(Chairman)

(Austria)

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COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

- (a) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1 and L.80)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1 and programme budget implications (A/C.3/47/L.80)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1 entitled "The convening of a world summit for social development" and document A/C.3/47/L.80 entitled "Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51 - statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly".
2. Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile) said that the text of the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1) was very close to that of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51. The main difference was in the number of sponsors, which had increased considerably as compared with the previous draft. He wished first to point out a typographical error in paragraph 10 (a); in the phrase "Consider the reports submitted to it", the words "to it" should be deleted.
3. He then drew the Committee's attention to the main changes made in the text. At the end of paragraph 3, an asterisk had been inserted, together with a footnote reading "Notwithstanding, Governments may be represented at the ministerial or similarly high level". That was a simple statement of fact: the summit would be held at the level of heads of State and Government but ultimately it was for States to decide at what level their Governments would be represented. Paragraph 8 provided that the sessions of the Preparatory Committee would be held "at the level of personal representatives of the heads of State or Government or other appropriate high-level representatives specifically designated by Governments". The purpose of that provision was to enable Governments which were not in a position to appoint personal representatives to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee and to be represented at the level they considered appropriate. Paragraph 12 recommended that the Commission for Social Development give consideration not only to the agenda of the summit but also to "the question of holding an extraordinary session dedicated solely to the question of the world summit for social development before the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee in 1994". The purpose of that provision was to improve the Commission for Social Development's contribution to the work of the Preparatory Committee by broadening its mandate.
4. He also indicated that the French-speaking delegations would like the French title of the draft resolution to be amended so as to bring it into greater conformity with the English title. He believed that the draft resolution as revised could be adopted by consensus.

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5. The CHAIRMAN announced that Gambia and Swaziland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.
7. Mr. SCHUTTE (Germany), explaining his vote after the vote, said that his delegation had joined the consensus because it supported the idea of the summit and the general thrust of the resolution. He thanked the representative of Chile and the sponsors of the draft resolution for the flexibility they had shown and for taking into account the main concerns expressed by his delegation during the consultations on the final text. The changes made in the draft resolution reflected some of those concerns: the footnote to paragraph 3 made it possible for States which were not in a position to participate at the level of heads of State and Government to participate at a ministerial or other level. The change made in paragraph 8 would enable all States to take part in the preparatory process. The change made in paragraph 12 reflected the concern of many delegations which felt that the Commission for Social Development should play a central role in the preparatory process. His delegation reaffirmed its belief that the Commission for Social Development could have served as the preparatory committee for the summit, in conformity with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/10 C. In that connection, he also referred to paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social and related fields (A/47/753), which noted that the preparations for the world summit on social development did not require the establishment of separate ad hoc secretariats. His delegation was convinced that the preparatory process, as conceived in the resolution, would make the best use of the capacities of the existing bodies and machinery of the United Nations, in particular those of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and of the International Labour Organisation. His country intended to participate actively in the preparatory work as well as the work of the summit itself.
8. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), explaining his vote after the vote, said that his delegation had decided to participate, in a constructive spirit, in the discussions on the draft resolution and had joined the consensus in spite of the reservations it had expressed during the 1992 session of the Economic and Social Council with respect to the convening of the summit on social development in 1995. His delegation would have hoped that unofficial consultations in which all interested delegations could take part could have been held at an earlier stage in the work of the Third Committee. His delegation would also have hoped that the goals and indeed the agenda of the summit could be worded differently and would in particular have liked the inclusion of a clear reference to General Assembly resolution 40/243.
9. He also regretted that the draft resolution did not reflect more clearly the concerns of his delegation concerning the preparatory activities and the inadequate role assigned to the Commission for Social Development in that process. His delegation had reservations regarding the information concerning

(Mr. Raven, United Kingdom)

the financing of the conference, including that contained in document A/C.3/47/L.80 and in the supplementary information document circulated to the Third Committee, and was afraid that the cost of the preparatory activities and the summit itself would be much higher than the estimates made in those documents. His delegation would take up the question in more detail when the statement of programme budget implications was considered in the Fifth Committee and reserve the right to speak on the question, if necessary, in a plenary meeting. He wished to thank all the delegations which had taken part in the negotiations and had made it possible to reach a consensus on the text of the resolution.

10. Mr. EL DEEB (Egypt) asked whether the provisions on the cost of conferences in resolution 40/243, entitled "Pattern of conferences", applied to the resolution that had just been adopted.

11. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his delegation was happy to have been able to join in the consensus on the resolution that had just been adopted, which was an important stage in the preparatory process for the Summit. His delegation reserved the right to speak on that question in the plenary and to go into greater detail as to the results that his country expected from the Summit.

12. The CHAIRMAN, replying to the question by the representative of Egypt, said that in adopting draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51/Rev.1 the Committee had also adopted the programme budget implications in document A/C.3/47/L.80. Since the question raised by the Egyptian delegation was very technical, he suggested that the clarifications sought should be provided by the Secretariat before the resolution that had just been adopted was submitted to the General Assembly.

13. He announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 93 (a) and that the debate on all the items on its agenda was closed.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

14. An exchange of courtesies took place, in which Mrs. BENNANI (Morocco), on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. RANASINGHE (Sri Lanka), on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. DOPKYUNAS (Belarus), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, and Mrs. AKBAR (Antigua and Barbuda), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, participated.

15. Mr. METSO (Finland), after conveying the customary courtesies on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the credibility and authority of the United Nations were perhaps greater than ever before and that the Organization, in addition to its activities in the areas of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping, was now assuming important tasks in the field of peace-building.

(Mr. Metso, Finland)

16. He noted that in June 1993, there would be an opportunity to present a progressive agenda for the protection and promotion of human rights to the world community when the World Conference on Human Rights was held at Vienna. It was to be hoped that the results of that Conference would be commensurate with the importance that the Charter attached to human rights. The World Summit for Social Development in 1995, would be an opportunity to put people at the centre of development, by focusing on social needs and by providing a common framework for United Nations action in that area.

17. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in September, he had predicted that the Committee's agenda would be a particularly heavy one. He noted that, among other important decisions resulting from the Committee's work, the resolution on the World Conference on Human Rights to be held at Vienna in 1993 had been adopted by consensus, after extensive consultations marked by flexibility and cooperation. He wished to thank Morocco, the main sponsor. He hoped that the negotiations on the final documents of the World Conference would be conducted in the same open and constructive spirit and also that the regional preparatory meetings at San José, Costa Rica, and Bangkok, Thailand, would contribute to the success of the Conference. The Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been launched in order to intensify United Nations action in that field. In that context, the Committee had adopted a resolution on "ethnic cleansing" and racial hatred in which it stated that the existence of racial and ethnic barriers was repugnant to the ideals of any human society and strongly rejected policies and ideologies aimed at promoting them.

18. In the social field, an International Day of Disabled Persons had been proclaimed and the Assembly had adopted a Proclamation on Ageing. The Committee had also discussed intensively policies and programmes involving youth and international cooperation in combating organized crime. It had reached agreement on the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in 1995. A record number of speakers had participated in the general debate on the advancement of women; nevertheless, the problems emphasized in the resolutions on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat and violence against women migrant workers underlined the importance of achieving progress before the World Conference on Women in 1995.

19. The decisions on drug control had underlined the need to intensify international cooperation and concerted action among States and to review and strengthen the activities undertaken, in particular those of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. In that connection, the Committee had recommended that four plenary meetings be held, at a high level, at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in order to examine the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

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(The Chairman)

20. The Committee had decided to renew the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years, taking into account the outstanding work done by UNHCR in protecting refugees and displaced persons and promoting permanent solutions. In the area of human rights, the Committee had adopted two very important new instruments: the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. It had also requested that the various human rights treaty bodies be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. It had recommended that human rights prizes be awarded in 1993 on the occasion of the forty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Within the context of electoral assistance to Member States, the Committee had authorized the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations observer mission to verify the referendum in Eritrea. Lastly, a number of countries had ratified international human rights instruments during the forty-seventh session, thereby contributing to the universalization of human rights standards.

21. Turning to the organization of its work, the Committee had, for the first time, started its general debate on the different agenda items with a panel discussion featuring eminent persons who had shared their experience with it, thereby improving the quality of work and returning to the proper meaning of the term "general debate". In that context, he expressed appreciation to Ms. Rigoberta Menchu, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner, whose address had underlined once again the important role played by the Committee in the promotion of human rights in general and the rights of indigenous peoples in particular. He hoped that that practice would be continued and that such debates would soon replace the mere reading out of national statements. The ideas raised in such discussions would make it possible to draft new resolutions and no longer repeat identical texts, year after year, on certain issues. However, while the reform of the Committee's work had so far been successful, further rationalization measures were needed to improve the quality of documents and introduce innovative methods of work while preserving the unique spirit of the Committee.

22. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Kamal, and all the members of the Secretariat who had contributed so efficiently to the smooth organization of work. He also thanked members of delegations for their constructive cooperation and their generous contributions to the appeals for Somali children and disabled persons. The amount raised was already \$9,000 and the deadline for donations had been extended to 14 December 1992.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.